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## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, December 9, 2005 / School nurse honored

## **School nurse at Columbia elementary school wins state honors for service, professionalism**

COLUMBIA – A Columbia elementary school nurse has been named the 2005-06 South Carolina School Nurse of the Year.

Carolyn Duff, a nationally certified school nurse with a master's degree in public health, has been the school nurse for A.C. Moore Elementary School in Richland School District One for nine years.

The School Nurse (RN) of the Year Award, presented annually by the State Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is given to a registered nurse practicing in a school setting who provides outstanding school health services.

The two state agencies described Duff as a dedicated professional who works to improve the health of her students and raise community awareness of health issues. In addition to meeting the acute needs of students who visit her office, Duff works with health care providers and parents to establish care plans for students with chronic health conditions, helps families secure resources for meeting the health needs of students, and works with others on her school team to offer such activities as health fairs, walking clubs, and recycling clubs.

In addition to the work that Duff does for her school community, she serves on the DHEC/SDE School Nurse Program Advisory Committee and the South Carolina Board of Nursing's School Nurse Task Force. She also chairs the continuing education committee for the South Carolina Association of School Nurses (SCASN) and is SCASN's representative to the Board of Directors of the National Association of School Nurses.

During a recent awards luncheon in North Charleston, SCASN also announced its School Health Services Award winner. Dr. Sarah J. Sanchez, Director of Learning Support Services with Richland School District Two, received this honor. The School Health Services Award is presented annually to honor an individual or entity, other than a school nurse, whose support of school nursing and school health promotion is exemplary.